

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,973,664 to Wanat ("Wanat '664"). Wanat '664 discloses an apparatus for positioning a web of paper in a printer. The apparatus includes a paper web drive means 10 which draws a continuous web 12 of paper across a print mechanism 14 where the information is typed upon the web 12. The web 12 is advanced via drive tractors 40 and 42 which drivingly engage sprocket holes 52 located along the longitudinal edges of the paper web 12. A tractor door 54 defines an elongated opening adapted to allow a plurality of pull pins of the drive tractor to pass therethrough.

The present invention, in amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13, recites "a print media tracking guide for providing positive tracking of media comprising ... a guide housing ... and an assembly rotatably coupled to the guide housing ...". This structure advantageously permits the assembly of the present invention to be selectively biased against the guide housing for the purpose of providing positive tracking of the print media. In contrast thereto, the assembly 50 in Wanat '664 is not rotatably coupled to the guide housing. Rather, in Wanat '664, the assembly 50 rotates independent of the guide housing. As best seen in Fig. 3 of Wanat '664, the door 54 defines an elongated opening 78 which is adapted to allow a plurality of pull pins of the drive tractor to pass therethrough. Thus, assembly 50 is not rotatably coupled to the guide housing.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 14 which directly or indirectly depend from independent claims 1 and 13 are at least patentable for the reasons that claims 1 and 13 are patentable. Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,326,656 to Gregory et al ("Gregory '656"). Gregory '656 discloses an apparatus for moving a continuous paper web 10 from a supply stack 11 between a pair of guides 12, 13, past a printing section 14, over a pair of tractors 15 to a discharge point.

The present invention recites a print media tracking guide for providing positive tracking of print media passing through a printing apparatus comprising a guide housing and an assembly rotatably coupled to the guide housing, the assembly including a head member selectively biased against the guide housing. The Office Action indicates that Gregory '656 discloses, *inter-alia*, a print media tracking guide comprising a guide housing 27. However, Gregory '656 clearly indicates that item 27 is merely a locking mechanism which is movable along a shaft to allow movement of a pin wheel and its guide to accommodate papers of varying widths. Locking mechanism 27 is certainly not a guide housing as recited in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 5 which directly depend from independent claims 1 are at least patentable for the reasons that claim 1 is patentable. Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wanat '664. It is respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 8 which directly depend from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, are at least patentable for the

reasons that claims 1 and 7 are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is gratefully acknowledged that claims 3, 9, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 9, 11 and 12 are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claims 1 and 7 from which they ultimately depend are patentable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the claims of the application as now presented, i.e., claims 1-14, are patentably distinct over the art of record and are in condition for allowance. In the event that the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or a personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the undersigned may be contact at the number indicated below.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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